

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7 have been amended, claims 6 and 8-14 have been canceled, and claim 15 has been added. Claims 1-5, 7 and 15 remain in the application.

In the Office action mailed 11/2/2005, claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Fujimaru (JP 2001-037928). The Examiner has stated that the putter head shown in the Fujimaru reference has a toe thickness that is greater than its heel thickness. Also, the Examiner has taken the position that the putter head of Fujimaru could have toe and heel cutouts with the toe cutout having greater depth than the heel cutout.

Amended claim 1 incorporates some of the limitations from claim 7 and defines a "face balanced" putter including a shaft received in a hosel connected to a club head body. The shaft has a longitudinal axis which intersects the center of gravity of the club head body. The heel and toe regions of the club head body each have a cutout formed therein with the cutout in the toe region having greater volume than the cutout in the heel region. The heel and toe cutouts are rearward of the face between the top surface and the sole. The putter head of Fujimaru is not face balanced since the shaft axis does not intersect the center of gravity of the putter head. Also, the putter head of Fujimaru does not have the heel and toe cutouts as defined in amended claim 1. For example, the concave groove near the hosel in the Fujimaru putter head is not the equivalent of applicant's heel cutout which is rearward of the face between the top surface and the sole of the club head body. Therefore, amended claim 1 defines an invention which is not anticipated by or obvious over Fujimaru.

In view of the preceding remarks, applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7 and 15.

Respectfully submitted,

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